decriminalizing the sex trade

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the state of French at McGill

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THE McGILL DAILY

VOLUME 83 • NUMBER 80 (81) | Wrestling with Tonya since 1911 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1994

Hidden agenda of North American Studies angers students

Conduct of program directors put into question

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

Critics say the North American Studies Program is pushing a right-wing agenda which they argue is influencing the conduct of the program directors, History professor Alvin Riggs and Economics professor Tom Velk.

"I think that their [Riggs and Velk] focus is clearly on American right-wing politics," said McGill graduate Rachel Rose. While Rose studied English at McGill, she took the seminar on North American Studies with both Riggs and Velk.

"There is clearly a bias in their course material towards a representation of the conservative side of American politics...forwarding their own conservative political beliefs," said Rose.

While professor Riggs, who chairs the program committee, admitted he has his own biases on many issues, he added, "Everybody has agendas...Every person has a set of ideas that make up that person's intellect. But, if it were true, what would be wrong with it?"

Riggs pointed out, however, that if students were upset with the program then there are channels through which they can complain. He added that in the eighteen years he has been involved in the program, there has never been a complaint from North American Studies students.

Faculty of Arts Dean John McCallum, however, said there has been some contention over the program.

"I know that it's [the North American Studies program] controversial for political reasons. Some people think it has a pro-American point of view which not everybody likes and so I know there has been some controversy for that kind of reason."

Some questions have been raised as to the program's political bias which seems to go beyond the personal beliefs of both Riggs and Velk.

Over the past decade, North American Studies has hosted a number of conferences at McGill designed to raise debate on issues like free trade and constitutional reform. Riggs and Velk have produced a number of books which stem from the discussions during the conferences. Last year's conference dealt with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

McGill student John Saunders, who attended the conference, said the motives seemed "overwhelmingly conservative."

"I didn't think it [the conference] was very representative of various views. Essentially, I thought it was pushing a right-wing agenda...There was essentially no debate even though it was billed as a North American free trade conference," said Saunders.

One of the principle organizations which funded the NAFTA conference is the Fraser Institute located in British Columbia. According to the Institute's director of finance Victor Waese, similar conferences funded by the Institute were hosted primarily in the United States.

In its pamphlet, the Institute's mandate is set out to direct 'public attention to the value of competitive markets and the role they can play in solving Canada's economic and social problems.'

The Fraser Institute relies heavily on corporate funding particularly from the United States. Waese said most of the work that they've been doing on NAFTA, including the conference at McGill, has been financed by the large corporately-controlled Indianapolis-based Lily Endowment Foundation.

History professor Carmen Miller, who sits on the North American Studies program committee, agreed the program is not oriented toward a broad-based view of North America, but he stopped short of criticizing the program. Miller said that when initiating the Canadian Studies program, he didn't want it to be subsumed by the North American Studies program.

"I didn't see it as North American, I saw it [the North American Studies program] primarily as a program focused on the United States," said Miller.

Jeff Hayman, who is the vice-president of the North American Studies Students' Association and a student in the program, acknowledged the biases in the teaching of the courses.

"I wouldn't say that they [Riggs and Velk] are trying to convince the people of the correctness of their views...What is valuable in their viewpoints is that they get us thinking," Hayman added.

Some students disagree, however, with what is being said in the classroom. In a letter to the chair of the English department on November 29, a group of anonymous female English majors, who took Velk and Riggs's 'Interdisciplinary Seminar in North American Studies' wrote of their outrage with the course and the way it was being taught.

"It is as if the only thing that matters in North America is what happened in the U.S. around the time of independence and shortly after," they wrote.

Professor Leanore Lieblein, who chairs the English department, acknowledged receiving the letter but said its anonymity made it difficult for her to take action.

Responding to the charges of the allegedly offensive cultural, gender, and pro-American bias of the course, she said, "In general...I don't think it's the place of a chair to judge the content or the points of view that are expressed in the classroom."

Part of the problem, according to a former McGill student who asked to remain anonymous, is that both Riggs and Velk teach the course in North American Studies voluntarily.

"A lot of people felt like they were helpless to do anything and the professors [Riggs and Velk] made it clear they were teaching for free, so what can you do against them?"

PGSS election '94

BY ALEX CARRASCO AND ANNA MARTINEZ

This year, only one of the seven positions in the Post Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) executive elections, that of vp internal, is being contested. Most of the candidates have dropped out of the running.

Candidates running uncontested must get "yes" votes from at least fifty per cent of PGSS members to take office, otherwise the decision goes to PGSS council.

Candidates running are: George Lozano for president, Marie-Claude Poliquin for vp external, Bob Collins for vp finance, Corinne Santa for vp admistration, and Paul White for senate rep and Gilbert Cabana for vp university affairs. Charles Hooge is running against Jeanne Schoenwandt for vp internal.

Elections will be held today and tomorrow and are only open to PGSS members.

President

Graduate student in Biology, George Lozano is this year's PGSS candidate for president. His main goal is to "bring common sense into the process". He wants to get rid of the political propoganda that "overwhelms" the meetings.

To accomplish this, Lozano wants to eliminate the use of the cumbersome Robert's Rules of Order in favour of a less formal system. He suggests putting the rules at the discretion of the chair of the specific meeting.

He also wants to increase the amount of knowledge on graduate affairs outside of Thomson House.

continued on back page

SSMU election recount

BY JOYA BALFOUR

Sevag Yeghovan prevails again, this time based on the results of a Students' Society presidential ballot recount. The result once again proves that at McGill, student politics take a back seat to indifference. Rich Latour, who requested the recount, felt his decision was a simple one.

"Any election that's decided by 36 votes between first and fourth [place], a recount should be automatic. I was just exercizing a formality."

Latour came in second to Yeghovan by an extremely slim margin of 14 votes. The frustrating part is, however, that of the 3,384 votes cast, 94 were void (damaged) and 187 were spoiled. Considering that Yeghovan won with a mere 596 votes, these uncounted ballots could easily have produced one of three different winners. If voters were more informed and poll clerks were adequately briefed on their duties, elections could run more smoothly.

"That a Student Society president should win with 500 votes where the student population is 15,000 seems to be common at large universities," said Latour.

Aside from glitches in the electoral process, it seems as if student apathy is responsible for the recount.

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HILLEL

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Elections for the following positions next year will be held on Thursday the 17th of March at 17h30:

- Co-ordinating Editor (1 position)
- Co-ordinating News Editor (1 position)
- Layout and design co-ordinators (2 positions)

All candidates wishing to run in the elections must be nominated by two Daily staff members.

For more information call 398-6784.

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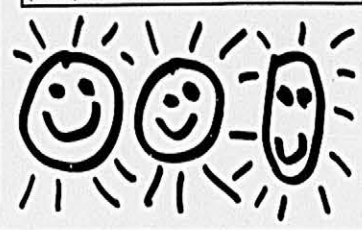

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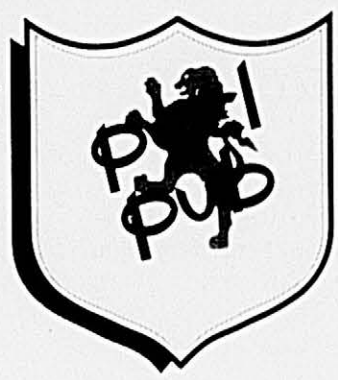

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Break out your Petit Roberts, McGill

La Commission Francophone issues preliminary report

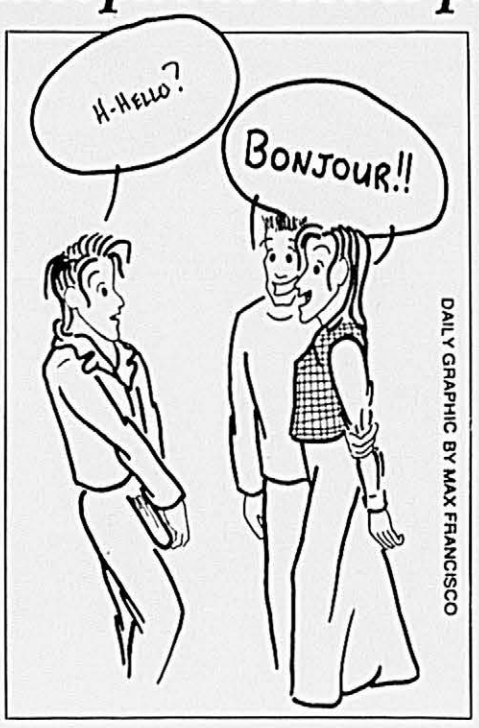
BY LORNE HERLIN

Nadyne Gobeil is a McGill occupational therapy student who hails from the most unilingual French area of Québec, Saguenay Lac St Jean. When she began her studies at McGill she possessed, at best, a functional knowledge of English.

She can still vividly recall her first day at McGill. As she entered the MacIntyre building—extremely nervous over the prospect of starting a new program, at a new school, in a language she was far from comfortable in. She began to mouth 'hello'. Yet to her amazement she was greeted by a sea of 'bonjours'.

"They were all speaking French," she said.

In fact according to Gobeil's own estimate nearly 75% of all her classmates are francophones, thereby helping to make her transition to McGill much easier.



DAILY GRAPHIC BY MAX FRANCISCO

French in decline at McGill

Gobeil's case represents somewhat of an anomaly in that most of the people in her class are French speaking. While the absolute number of francophone students at McGill has steadily increased, the overall percentage has declined from 25.5% in 1986 to 19.6% this academic year.

It is this phenomenon, as well as concern for the overall role of the French language on campus, that led this year's vp external Andrew Work, to found the La Commission Francophone à McGill (CFM). In addition to Work, the commission is composed of Science rep Isabelle Girard (the Commission's co-ordinator), Law rep Marian Tremblay, U3 Québec Studies Jean-François Pouliot, and U3 Management student Isabelle Turcotte.

Following four days of public hearings in February, CFM tabled its preliminary report on March 3. It includes recommendations aimed at both the Students' Society and at the university administration.

According to Girard, "the commission is not striving to turn McGill into a completely bilingual institution, but rather to improve the quality of francophone students' experiences at McGill."

Schmoozing in French

One of the report's more controversial clauses calls for the creation of a francophone commissioner. Drawn from the ranks of students and appointed by council, the commissioner's duties would include that of "determining a procedure to verify the level of French proficiency for all candidates seeking office but only during the election period".

The report goes on to advise that the Students' Society constitution be amended so that executive committee members be forced to continue studying French "until such a skill is acquired". Furthermore, the president should "strive to achieve a better than functional level of French".

Currently, clause 8.6 of the constitution merely states that the members "once elected, will undertake to acquire a functional knowledge of both official languages."

This summer, the executive members enrolled in a three week French program at L'Université de Montréal. The near $500 (per member) fee came out of Students' Society funds.

Girard believes that "the present clause in the constitution concerning bilingualism has not been taken seriously." She contends that of all the executive committee members, only Work could be classified as being more than functionally bilingual. She does, however, acknowledge that president Luz, vp finance Paul Johnson and especially vp internal Cornell Wright have made somewhat of an effort to learn French.

"All that we [the commission] want is that each member should be able to understand a French conversation and be able to respond in at least a limited way," said Girard.

Indeed, the fact that the preliminary report was written in English is indicative of the lack of French proficiency amongst council members.

Vp university affairs Ruth Promislow is concerned that the tightening of the language requirements may discourage some students, for example those with learning disabilities, from running. She objects to "any procedure that may exclude individuals who wish to hold a Students' Society position".

To this charge Girard responds that the proposed French commissioner would only determine and then make public a candidate's level of proficiency prior to the election.

"The commissioner would not have the power to exclude anyone from running," she said.

Further recommendations

In terms of Students' Society, other recommendations include: greater publicity of the fact that students can choose to write exams and term papers in French without being subject to penalty, more bilingual advertizing of Students' Society events, a systematic effort to have French versions of mailings sent to those who request it, and the creation of a francophone caucus.

For the university itself, the CFM recommended the implementation of bilingual course evaluation forms, subsidized French lessons for professors, the creation of a French version of the administrative handbook, the teaching of both English and French scientific terminology, and an increased effort to involve francophones in recruitment programs.

Stephane Ethier, recent past president of McGill Québec, believes there is not enough of an effort to attract francophones. "For the most part, McGill's attitude is that if they come, they come, and if they do not then so be it."

He points to the success of faculties such as Law and Management which have made an effort to become more bilingual and their success in attracting a large number of francophones. By contrast, he points to the faculty of arts as "being almost completely unilingual" thereby explaining why only 8% of its students are francophones.

The final report of the CFM will be tabled, in French but with translations upon request, in a few weeks.

US military dumps toxic waste in Philippines

World Watch

Greenpeace has called on the US Government to clean up the toxic waste left behind at its former military bases in the Philippines.

"There is an urgent need for a competent bilateral commission to assess the contamination and oversee the clean up of these bases," said Ann Leonard, a Greenpeace toxic trade campaigner.

Local residents told of an occasion in late 1992, just before the US pulled out of Subic, when a ten-wheeled military vehicle arrived in one village supposedly to deliver much needed building materials. But the delivery consisted of drums filled with chemicals including sulphuric acid, solvents and insecticides. Some of the drums carried a warning: Toxic to fish, wildlife and birds.

"Dumping military wastes on another country is a serious case of toxic trade. As long as US military toxic wastes are left in the Philippines, the US is sending a message to the global community that it is OK to use other countries as their rubbish bin," said Leonard.

—Worker's World Service

Women prisoners in U.S. growing

Approximately 60,000 women are imprisoned in the US. This number is growing by 15% yearly with 41 women on death row. Of the 41, 15 were convicted of killing their husbands or lovers.

Conditions for many women in prison are abominable, many going without basic medical treatment.

In the Central California Women's Facility at Chowchilla, for example, there are over 3,000 women incarcerated. Approximately 100 are known to have HIV and there is no staff doctor qualified to deal with HIV/AIDS. The prison doctor is a pediatrician with little knowledge of women's health-care needs. Guards with elementary first aid training (MTAs) dispense medication and diagnose illnesses.

— Worker's World Service

Canadian government misses the point on Chiapas

"Although these unfortunate incidents were timed to coincide with the inauguration of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), no direct link exist between NAFTA and the conditions in the Chiapas State or the circumstances of the Aboriginal people of Mexico. Canada does not believe that recent events in Mexico will affect the ongoing implementation of NAFTA."

— André Ouellet, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, in a letter to the Daily.

CITY BRIEFS

$10 million gondola to fix parking congestion

The city of Montréal is currently considering purchasing a $10 million gondola system to alleviate the parking congestion at the Casino on Notre-Dame Island.

A former city councillor, Arnold Bennett, is presenting the proposal to City Hall. The gondola system is a remnant of EXPO '84, which was held in New Orleans.

Currently, the 1000 car underground parking lot fills up by early afternoon and Loto-Québec is looking for ways to fix the problem. Concerned with high traffic on the recreational island, the city originally proposed building a multi-level parking lot three kilometres away with a connecting bus trip.

But Loto-Québec, the owners of the casino, want something more extravagant and flashy than a bus ride for its tuxedo-ed gamblers.

Public transit collides with private interests

Public transit officials have suggested that Montréal should cut more all-day parking spots than it had originally intended to.

The Montréal Urban Transit Commission wants more parking spaces eliminated, as well as taxation of existing ones. These measures will help it to attain its goal of transporting 70 per cent of people going downtown.

Private parking lot owners, eager to feed off more cars, say it is unrealistic to cut parking spots and expect fewer cars.

—Damion Stodola

Reforms in the student teaching program

Education Minister Jacques Chagnon announced earlier this month that Québec is going to reform the student teaching program.

There will be an increase from 115 hours to 700 hours of practice teaching required by student teachers in order to receive their teaching certificate. This would change the program into a 4 year program as opposed to the 3 year program that it is now.

McGill's Faculty of Education is currently changing the concentration to its current reforms in the student teaching program to meet the Québec government's decision, but the changes will not be drastic.

McGill student teachers currently need 600 hours of practice teaching, and the Faculty of Education was already in the process of changing the program from a three year to a four year program. Therefore McGill is not greatly affected by the Québec government's proposed reforms.

Concordia and l'Université de Montréal are in similar situation. Students are already logging in aout 600 practice hours, and administration has already instigated the process of reform.

— Max Francisco

COMMENT

Freedom of the press, eh?

Using terms like freedom of choice, cost-cutting and responsibility as a front for political motives, conservative students are attempting to eliminate dissenting voices on campuses across North America.

If you read last week's front-page story in *The Globe and Mail*, you know all about the plight of *Surface*, a student-run publication at Queen's University. In recent years, *Surface* has come under increasing attack from right-wing student groups intent on closing it down. Last October, they succeeded in cutting off its funding from the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society and forced the paper into a temporary shutdown. This year, *Surface* resumed publication with funding from independent sources.

Most of the anti-*Surface* crusaders consider the publication "anti-white", "racist", "anti-male" and a whole host of other misinformed labels designed to incite negative feelings towards the paper. Money wasn't the real concern here; the real goal was to silence the editorial views of the paper.

At other papers, like the University of British Columbia's *Ubyssey*, similar arguments have been used. Last June, the student government, under enormous pressure from the 'Young Conservative' contingent on campus, decided to place the paper under the administration of a publications board. At the time, the student government used arguments such as "the editors of the *Ubyssey* have demonstrated a lack of fiscal responsibility with student funds" and the paper's "unresponsiveness to student interests" as reasons for their increased control over the paper.

"The economics is a justification for furthering their political agenda," says *Ubyssey* staff member Siobhan Roantree.

The McGill community is not immune to this trend. This year, a petition for a campus-wide referendum was circulated concerning the *McGill Daily*. The question, if passed, would have eliminated student funding of the *Daily* in the interests of saving each student the $6.70 per semester they pay as members of the Daily Publications Society. In the end, the question was rejected by the Chief Returning Officer and did not appear on the ballot.

Couching their desire to restrict the *Daily*'s ability to publish and its press freedom in economic terms is mere camouflage on the part of the question's instigators. In reality, their clever tactic is no less than a form of editorial terrorism, an attempt to control what the *Daily* prints.

We have seen these subtle tactics of censorship — and other not-so-subtle methods, such as the mass trashing of papers as seen on many campuses in the U.S. — be deployed against the student press elsewhere in Canada and around the world.

Student media at its best serves a vital function in society; to discuss ideas and events which are glossed over or ignored in the mainstream media. Student papers and radio stations are not perfect. We don't profess to be perfect, and we don't try to represent the majority opinion — that's done well enough in the *Gazette*, the *Globe* and on the CBC.

Everyone who pays their $6.70 becomes a member of the Daily Publication Society, and is entitled to work for the *Daily*;. It's the cheapest subscription anyone will ever have for what they get. It also means that anybody who wants to change the *Daily* can come to staff meetings, write articles, or run for an editorial position.

The systematic attacks on the autonomy of student press in Canada and around the world are symptomatic of a broader trend — certain elements of society, powerful elements, want to suppress ideas and events that they don't want to know about. They want to eliminate the discussion of ideas incompatible to their world view, and they have found ready targets in *Surface*, in the *Daily*, and at the *Ubyssey*.

Chris Sheridan Zack Taylor Elisabeth Unna
Melanie Newton Jason Ridgley

LETTERS

The Daily welcomes all letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and phone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. We print all letters provided they are not racist, sexist, homophobic or slanderous. Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, no more than 500 words.

Who deserves condom-free sex?

To the Daily:

Re: "Birth Control and Me", printed Monday, March 9.

Great article. Not enough attention is paid to women's difficulties and experiences in dealing with birth control. Let's face it: the general public is more aware of the male whine "I just can't *feel* anything," than of women's more difficult reality.

The only problem I have with the column is the statement "I deserve to have condom-free sex...without worrying about pregnancy."

Does any human being really deserve this? As some kind of fundamental right? A parallel might be "I deserve to live in Montréal in January and have the weather be 25°C and sunny every day." While it would be great, it seems a little much to ask and especially to deserve.

For me, part of the decision to enter into a sexual relationship is being able to accept the responsibilities and problems of birth control and to deal with the difficulties of an unwanted pregnancy, should it occur. There will always be a risk in pumping chemicals into women's (and hopefully in the future) men's bodies to alter its natural state, just as there will always be a risk of a condom breaking. Accepting that risk and assuming responsibility of any consequences is part of the decision to enter into any sexual relationship. We don't deserve to have sex without it.

W. Richards
U2 English

P.S. Condom-free sex without worrying about pregnancy — isn't that called "masturbation"?

Waiting for Banerji

To the Daily:

My body tingles in anticipation of Rima Banerji's response to Moni Islam's "chip on her shoulder" and Michael Kluk's "struggle" letters to the editor. When oh when will the next Daily be out.

Francesco Munaretto
M.Eng 1

Security?

To the Daily,

Today as I went to put cream and sugar in my coffee in the Redpath cafeteria I noticed two men who looked like they were members of the MUC SWAT team enter the cafeteria. I looked at their black uniforms and noticed the "SECUR" emblem. Aha! Security guards, I thought, even though rather menacing looking.

Upon closer investigation (which wasn't difficult since I was right beside on guard who was emptying the cash from the library card machine while the second man stood guard) I noticed he had a gun! Not a walkie-talkie — a gun!

I asked him why he needed a gun and he said, "because we are taking money out." Where's the Brinks truck?

Now so far during my experience at McGill I have noticed a Bell telephone employee taking the money boxes out of the pay telephones, the SSMU service-man taking money out of the money changer and other machines — and neither of them had a gun.

Why indeed does he need a gun? I began to think, what if one of these men felt justified in its use? Suppose one of the regular panhandlers, or (heaven forbid!) a broke and stressed-out student decided he or she was going to try to steal that money and the "security" guard were to shoot them right in the middle of the Redpath cafeteria?!

I don't see the need for armed security people to enter McGill premises, and I feel their presence (or more precisely, the presence of their guns) presents more of a threat to us than we do to them.

Don't we have the right to require that guns never enter McGill buildings (except, I suppose, if police were ever needed)? Can't we require that security guards who enter McGill not be armed ones?

Wendy L. Cloutier
U1 Management
(and admittedly a pacifist.)

Would the people who wrote letters about Andrew Work's birthday suit please come by the Daily? We need your names, and one of you has to cut your letter by a couple hundred words.

SINCE•1911
Vol.83 No.81

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THE McGILL DAILY

Sex trade workers doing it for themselves

Two young men walk into Harvey's at the corner of St. Laurent and St. Catherine and approach a group of women sitting at a table, sipping coffee and making conversation.

"How much for a blow job?" one of them asks, nudging his friend, laughing. He looks one of the women in the eyes and facetiously says, "You're a fucking whore! Aren't you?" He throws back his head and laughs.

She ignores him, so he and his friend head for the exit. The woman raises her eyebrows, turns to her friends, sighs, and says, "That's what we have to deal with."

BY INGRID HEIN

MONTREAL (CUP) — Some Montréal residents, politicians and womens' groups are trying to get prostitutes off the streets because they feel selling sex is "immoral" and fosters crime, including violence and drugs on the streets.

But prostitutes and researchers are debunking the myths about prostitution. Some prostitutions say their work is empowering, and decriminalizing the sex trade could be a positive step not only for sex workers, but also for society as a whole.

"They think we're all on dope, and we do anything a man asks for, that's really not true," said a woman who calls herself Kim on the street. "The truth of the matter is that we don't do anything we don't want to. None of us lets anyone eat us out, we never let anyone kiss us, and we never ever do anything without a condom that we put on — properly."

"We don't only sell sex," said Kim, laughing. "It's happened more than once that some guy comes up to me with his girlfriend or whatever at four o'clock in the morning and asks me if he can buy a condom."

Shattering Stereotypes

Concordia sociology professor Frances Shaver directed a project in the summer of 1991 that looked at prostitution as part of the service industry in Montréal. After interviewing 80 male, female and transgendered sex workers in Montréal, Shaver concluded that stereotypes about prostitutes are just that: stereotypes.

Shaver found that most prositutes practice safe sex and do not present an undue risk of AIDS/HIV transmission. Prostitutes are not desperate women; they choose to work in the business and they choose what they do in exchange for money. In short, they are in control.

"In addition, we found that only seven per cent of prostitutes use drugs, contrary to popular belief," Shaver said. "We need people to become more educated on the sex trade."

"There are women who say that prostitutes are doing them a disservice by legitimating men's access to women. They say that it gives men a right to a woman's body.

"But prostitutes are one group of women who don't give anyone anything for free."

Decriminalization

Shaver believes that sex work should be decriminalized so that prostitutes will be treated with more respect, so that they can be treated fairly under the law when they are harassed instead of being harassed by the law.

"I see it as a necessary service. Prostitutes do not derive pleasure from it, they're simply doing a job."

— Jane LeBrun

Presently, Canada's Criminal Code does not say that prostitution is illegal per se, but soliciting or communicating for the purpose of exchanging money for sex is a summary offence.

"The discussion is a violation," said Jean-Pierre Leblanc of the Sûreté de Québec. "There has to be a mutual agreement, they [the police] hace to hear 'Do you go out?' so that they know."

Women who are arrested for so-called sociliting are identified, photographed, fingerprinted, and they usually spend the night in jail.

Shaver said that many people don't understand the difference between legalization and decriminalization. She said that legalizing prostitution would put control of the industry into the hands of authorities. Decriminalization, on the other hand, would remove prostitution from the Criminal Code.

Sex trade activists agree that decriminalization would be a better option.

"We feel that sex trade workers would be exploited if it was legalized," said Kara Gillies, a lap dancer and a member of the prostitutes' activist group Maggie's in Toronto.

"There's the notion of licenses," Gillies said. "They exist now in a lot of strip clubs which tend to be run down. Legalization wouldn't do anything to empower women in the business.

"I felt safest when I was working out of my home doing erotic masages. But I got charged with an indictable offence, running a bawdy house."

Gillies said the current laws don't serve to protect anybody, especially not self-employed women in the sex trade. If she works from home and a problem occurs, she can't call the police because what she is doing is illegal. Gillies said that if prostitution was legalized, she might need to acquire a license and work under an agency — who wouldn't call the police either because they wouldn't want to have a bad name.

"Right now, there are some escort agencies who sometimes send women out out on a bad call even if they know that the john is abusive — they want to make money. It takes away the workers' power to choose."

Gillies said that legalization would mean regulations and laws, and that would mean sex trade workers would be sent to the suburbs — where it isn't safe to work — because residents would complain about them.

Maggie's is working toward decriminalizing sex work. They also publish a "bad trick" list and have a bad call system for erotic phone sex workers. Legal advocacy and free condoms are also available. At present there are 12 people on staff at Maggie's, all people who work in the field.

Jane Lebrun is Concordia graduate student in sociology, who worked on the 1991 study.

"I see it [prostitution] as a necessary service," she said. "Prostitutes do not derive pleasure from it, they're simply doing a job."

LeBrun said that since she started talking to people doing sex work, her perception of the trade has definitely changed. She doesn't see prostitutes as "the other" anymore.

"I saw them coming to work in regular clothes, and putting on their 'uniform.' They do their job as professionals, they're really strict about what their clients can do. I think that they feel that they are not only contributing, but in control of their bodies. They have a price, that's what puts them in control."

But LeBrun also said that harassment comes with the nature of the trade, partly because it is illegal.

"It's not an easy life. You see the effects. They get burnt out. There's a lot of harrassment and police brutality."

"You run into a hassle sometimes when they (the johns) can't get off — mostly when they're drunk — and they want their money back. I usually tell them no guarantees if they're drunk or high," said Kim, who works the St. Laurent/St. Catherine corner.

"You also have to be careful with domination dates. They want you to be their dominatrix and then they decide they want to reverse the roles. Then you have to start talking really fast."

"But then again, when they're thinking with their dicks, you usually have the control, " said Corey, who also works the Harvey's corner.

Kim said the real problem is that they don't get police support a lot of the time when things get rough. She said that when she lays down the rules, and someone steps over the line, there is a lack of respect for her as a witness because of the nature of her job; the justice system treats her as if she "should expect to get hassled."

Many of the women see their jobs entirely as a service, they are self-employed, and some prostitutes, in particular those affiliated with Maggie's and other activist groups, are trying to use the sex trade to empower themselves and other women.

"We tried to put on some politically innovative shows, one called 'The Mounted Police' where we had strange music and dialogue," said Joelle Carroll, a Toronto stripper who is also affiliated with Maggie's.

"But the club owners want the dancers to be silenced," Carroll added.

However, workers in the sex trade are talking.

When a sex worker calls to leave a message on the answering machine at Maggie's, they are treated in a professional manner. Just be fore the tone, they are told, "Thank-you, and have an arrest-free day!"

FOR YOUR SAFETY

The Walksafe Network (WSN) and the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill's Students Society (SACOM) have been authorized by those reporting incidents to release the following information in order to raise awareness for personal safety.

On February 27th, 1994 between 3:30pm and 4:00pm, the following two incidents occurred in front of the Rutherford Physics Building:

While entering the building, a lady was stopped by a man in a grey car. After asking her if she spoke English, he then proceeded to tell her that he worked for the government and wanted to check her teeth. He had a scratch pad with him, but no other instruments. He asked her to come into the car. After refusing his request for her to enter his car, he stepped out of the car, lunged at her face, pryed open her mouth and examined her teeth. During the course of the interaction, he insisted that she give him her number.

Another woman was approached by the same man who asked her if she spoke English, then told her he was a dentist and wanted to see her teeth. He said that he was looking for patients and asked her the date of her last dental appointment. He reached out of the car for her, demanding to see her teeth. As well, he showed her ripped out pages with pictures of teeth.

The assailant is described as being a caucasian (with dark skin) male, approx. between 30 and 35 years of age, had a receding hairline, almost bald, had a moustache, unshaven, medium height approx. 5'8", and thin. The vehicle is described as being a big American car, blue or gray, Cadillac style.

On February 20th, 1994 at 1:00am, between MontRoyal and Rachel on Esplanade, a woman was followed by a man in a car who repeatedly asked many questions, including whether he could have her phone number. The woman felt that he was trying to get her into his car as he would start his questions louder and then the volume of his voice would decrease. The man is descibed as being caucasian, with dark hair, approximately in his 30's. At the time of the incident, the man was driving a boxy, small, dull-coloured car.

If anyone has any information or has witnessed similar incidents, please contact SACOM at 398-2700 or WSN at 398-2498.

Facing the MUSIC

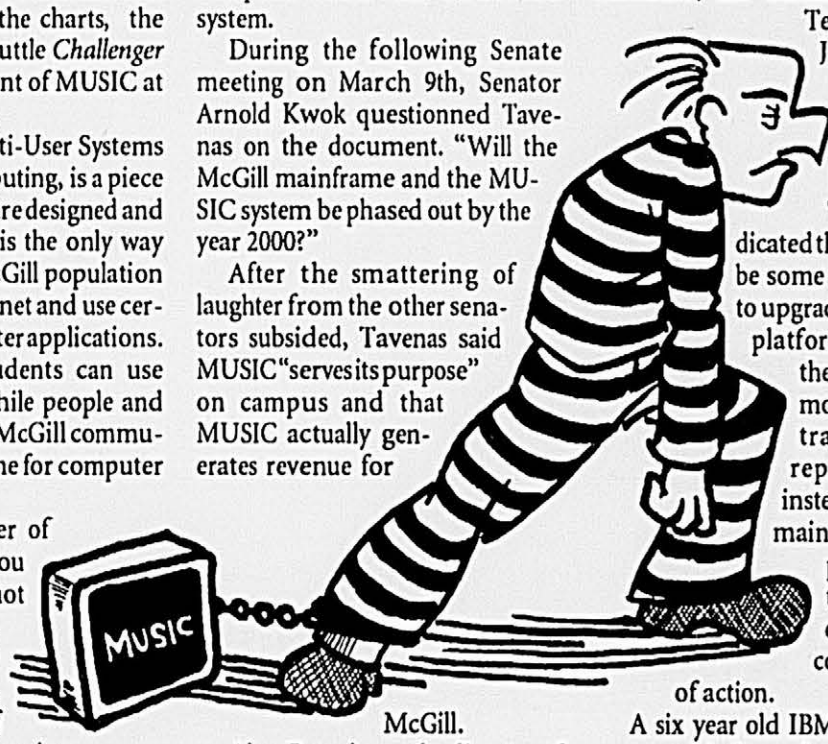
McGill plans to keep using MUSIC

BY MAX FRANCISCO

The mid-eighties saw Madonna and Michael climbing the charts, the explosion of the shuttle *Challenger* and the development of MUSIC at McGill University.

MUSIC, or Multi-User Systems Interface for Computing, is a piece of computer software designed and sold by McGill. It is the only way that the general McGill population can access the Internet and use certain McGill computer applications. At McGill, all students can use MUSIC for free while people and groups outside the McGill community have to buy time for computer system use.

Any serious user of MUSIC will tell you that the system is not ageing gracefully. But in the March 9 Senate meeting, Vice-Principal of Resources and Planning François Tavenas said "[MUSIC] serves its purpose, and it is a very cost-effective system."



DAILY GRAPHIC BY MAX FRANCISCO

At the February 23 Senate meeting, Tavenas put forth a document titled "Visions of McGill in the year 2000". The document had no provisions for the eventual removal of MUSIC or the obsolete mainframe computer which runs the MUSIC system.

During the following Senate meeting on March 9th, Senator Arnold Kwok questionned Tavenas on the document. "Will the McGill mainframe and the MUSIC system be phased out by the year 2000?"

After the smattering of laughter from the other senators subsided, Tavenas said MUSIC "serves its purpose" on campus and that MUSIC actually generates revenue for McGill.

Alan Greenberg, the director of the Computing Centre, agreed saying later that, "[MUSIC] software development generates $400,000 in revenue" from the hundreds of other institutions which have bought MUSIC software from McGill. Some of these include the University of Georgia in the United States, University of Western Sydney in Australia, the Osaka Institue of Technology in Japan, and University College in Dublin, Ireland.

Tavenas indicated that there may be some kind of plan to upgrade to another platform and that there may be a move to "central data repositor[ies]" instead of using a mainframe computer. At this time, however, there is no concrete plan of action.

A six year old IBM mainframe computer is the nucleus of the MUSIC network of computers. Originally donated to McGill by IBM, the mainframe, according to Greenberg, is maintained at an annual cost of about $7000.

Unfortunately, the IBM mainframe will never be able to cope with the increasing demands on computer systems resources. This year alone, 5000 students applied for a MUSIC account. This is 3500 more students than last year.

The expandibility of a Sun Sparc-10, which is capable of running a UNIX platform, would solve the problem of McGill's increasing user base. Greenberg estimated that a recently installed UNIX system at a McGill computer lab costs about $70,000. The Computing Centre, however, receives a discount of 45% on most computer purchases. Greenberg did not state if the UNIX system included a discount.

Converting to a UNIX platform would bring the McGill community up to par with other major electronic communities in the Internet in terms of software. The change in platform would also relieve McGill's overloaded and underpowered computer systems. Most Net users agree that UNIX is the platform of choice because of its flexibility.

Although a transfer to a UNIX platform and a computer hardware upgrade would please a majority of the McGill user community, McGill's current financial situation prevents any future changes.

Noisy, disjointed indie rock

Trumans Water's newest — "Godspeed the Punchline"

BY JONAH BRUCKER-COHEN

When listening to the San Diego quartet *Trumans Water*'s latest album "Godspeed the Punchline" the last element to search for is a coherent structure.

If you do attempt to figure out which parts fit in where, or how long they are, you will be very discouraged. Just when the songs are about to fall into even the slightest repetitive rhythm, they somehow find a way to turn themselves completely on their heads.

Trumans Water began in 1992 with a self-released album "Of Thick Tum" which eventually gained exponential fame when British radio icon John Peel aired it in its entirety on one of his famed broadcasts.

With an astounding reaction from the over-eager British press who had squirmed over the slacker greats Pavement a year before, came a calling for the band's signature from record labels worldwide.

Eventually, Trumans Water settled with Homestead Records and Dutch East India Trading distribution to manufacture their records for North American release. The European rights went to Elemental Records of the U.K. to keep up with the demand.

Inspired by the vomit-inducing noise clutter of Japan's Boredoms, and fixating that chaos to booming bass lines and treble-laden guitars, Trumans Water create an intricate blend of lo-fi spastic indie rock.

With lyrics like "Stick yer fist in a meatgrinder/ Rage-blinded wine spurts and clots like a dog sick to death/ Of the taste of its very own tail" in the anthem "Long End of a Firearm", to the ever inspiring mockery of modern rock critics in "The Aroma of Gina Arnold", Trumans Water avoid no punches and do whatever it takes to deviate from accepted norms of song structure and viability.

Trumans Water play with Montreal's Howard North tonight (Mar.16) for only $6 at Jailhouse Rock, 30 Mt. Royal W.

"Godspeed the Punchline" by Truman's Water. Don't even try to figure it out

Events

• Come one, come all! **The Huns** are throwing a party and you're invited! Come for a taste of true Hungarian cuisine, music, dance, and more! Thursday, March 17, 19h, Shatner 302.

• Book sale sponsored by the **Latin American Awareness Group.** Hundreds of books, dirt cheap. Monday, March 14 until Friday, March 18. 10h to 18h, Shatner 107/08.

• **The McGill Student Film and Video Festival**, presented by the English Dept. and DESA, is accepting any and all VHS and film format submissions until March 31 in the English department office. Held on April 7th and 8th, this festival is a great opportunity to showcase your work! For more info, call Malve (284-1996) or Allison (284-3630).

• What is the real Marxist tradition? Join the **International Socialists** at Concordia University, Hall Bldg., Rm. H771, today, 19h30.

• The **Armenian Students Association of McGill** welcomes everyone to the first-time performance of three Armenian folk-dance ensembles. Show held on Thursday, March 17, at19h, Shatner ballroom. $3 for students, $5 if you aren't. Come and enjoy!

• **ILLTV** is launching its one and only SECOND EPISODE... the biggest and the best! Join us for fun and frolic at Gert's, Saturday, March 19, 22h. It's free!

• **Forum to Discuss Canada's Budgetary and Fiscal Policy.** Main speaker: Hardial Bains, national leader of CPC(ML), on his brief presentation to Finance Minister Paul Martin, entitled "For a Progressive Social Policy, Against Retrogressive Pressure ". Tonight, Shatner B-09, 19h.

• **Fight for Women's Rights** today- from the abortion rights struggle to the issues surrounding the fight against violence towards women. A public meeting with Mary Ellen Marus, followed by discussion. Saturday, March 19, 19h30. Militant Labor Forum, 4581 St. Denis, 284-7369.$4, or pay what you can.

• **Amnesty International and McGill Legal Network** presents Dr. Francis T. Seow, who will give a lecture on " The Janus Face of Singapore - A Study in Contrasts", today, Chancellor Day Hall, rm. 203, 13h-14h, free.

• **Art History Dept. and Centre for East Asian Studies** presents, Prof. Tsao Yu-Sheng, on " The Aesthetic Structure of Calligraphy," Friday, March 11, 14h30-15h30, Arts West 215.

• **Environmental Law Association of McGill** presents an illustrated lecture and discussion period concerning the development of the Canadian Arctic to benefit the local populations while protecting environmental integrity. Wednesday, March 16, 12h30, Chancellor Day Hall, 3644 Peel St., Rm. 200.

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-17, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication.
McGill Students (with valid ID): $3.50 per day, 4 or more consecutive days, $2.75 per day ($11.00 per week). McGill Employees (with staff card) $4.50 per day, 4 or more consecutive days, $3.75 per day ($15.00 per week). All others: $5.00 per day, or $4.25 per day for 4 or more consecutive days ($17.00 per week). Extra charges may apply, and prices do not include applicable GST or PST. For more information, please visit our office in person or call 398-6790 – ***WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER.*** *The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.*

1 - Housing

Colonial/Prince Arthur: 2½ with backyard, hardwood floor, stove/fridge incl. $395. Call 284-5632.

For sale: Beautiful renovated condo on Lorne. Hardwood floors, exposed brick walls, fireplace and much more! Call S. Jones at 481-0241 Royal LePage Brk.

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Beautifully renovated apts. at a reasonable price. 3½, 4½ available. Call: 284-5650 or 849-3897, for more info.

Summer sublet from May 1st. Great 3½ on Milton (Aylmer) - 2 min. to school, 2 levels, 2 closed rooms. Hdwd. flrs., lots of storage, freshly painted. Big kitchen. $485/mth. Call 842-5124 now!

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P-T Sales/Cust. Ser. Pos. for biochem. manu., open to Bio/Biochem U2/U3 Stud., Available from April to Dec. '94. Salary comm. based. Call 686-7050, ext. 2896.

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Please note the following changes to our publication schedule:

- The *Daily Français* scheduled for March 29th has been **cancelled**.
- The final *McGill Daily* for the Winter Term will be published on **April 13** instead of April 11 as originally scheduled

7 - Articles For Sale

LASERPRINTER FOR SALE! Hewlett Packard Laserjet IIP w/ Postscript cartridge, 2meg RAM, IBM compatible cable & software. With box, manuals. $1100. Zack 985-5849.

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Lost your mind?! Call McGill Nightline! Open nightly from 6pm to 3am – 398-6246.

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14 - Notices

Massive party at Douglas Hall for St. Pat's. Door prizes and great drink specials. Friday, March 18 at 9:00. *$1 with green clothing*, $2 without.

LBGM Weekly discussion groups: Wed. Bi-group 5:30, 432 Shatner. Fri. Coming Out 5:30, General 7:00, both at UTC, 3521 University. All welcome.

Questioning your sexuality? Or do you have any other concerns and need to talk? Call the LBGM Peer Counselling Line at 398-6822 Mon. to Fri. 7 to 10 pm.

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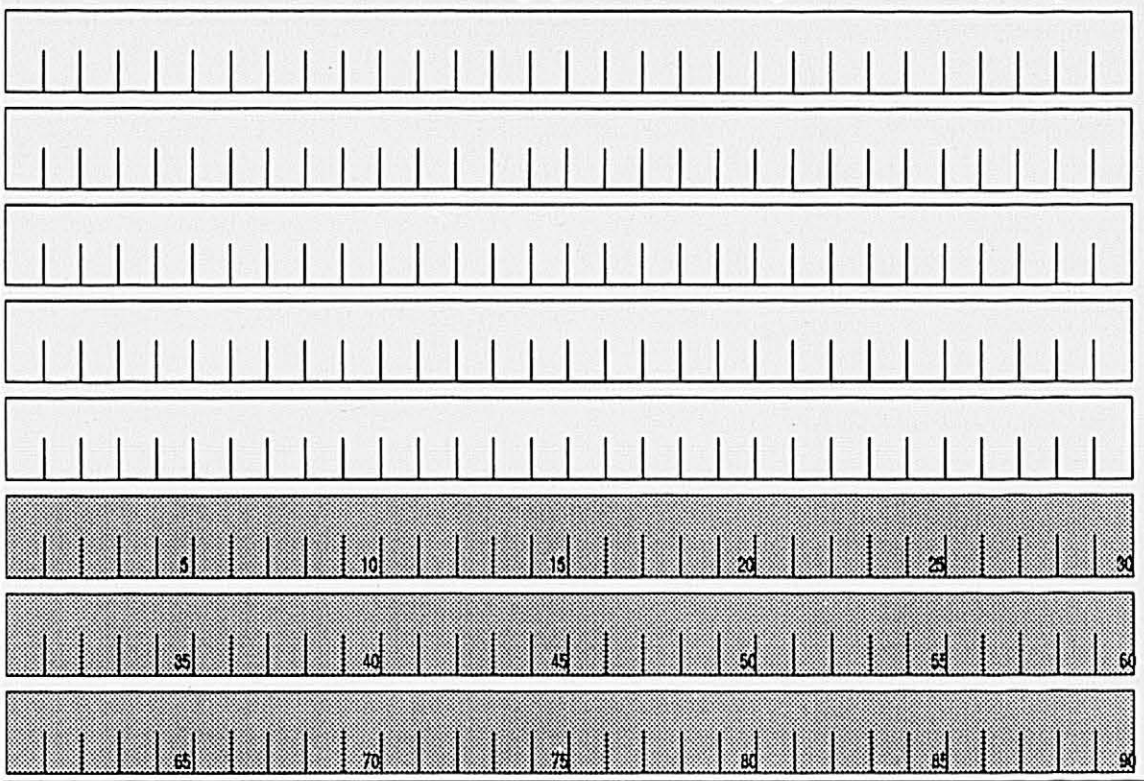

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Consumer or public good?

Student federation debates philosophy behind education

BY DAMION STODOLA

Faced with government subsidy reductions, students are being forced to debate the principles behind zero-tuition and unlimited accessibility.

Most student leaders are acknowledging that tuition fees will inevitably go up — the more important concern is devising a system which insures accessible education to those who have great intellectual capacity.

The Fédération Étudiante Universitaire du Québec (FEUQ) recently released a study on university financing, financial aid and student contribution to education.

"We are trying to present all the ideas," said Serge Charlebois, president of FEUQ. "We were trying to create a neutral document to present all the alternatives."

Two competing philosophies regarding education have emerged from the report.

"There are those who see education as a consumer good and those who see it as a public good," said Charlebois. "Most students we've talked to seem to accept that students must make their own contribution."

The question rests on the actual collection of that contribution. Two methods have attracted the most interest — Income Contingency Loan Repayment Plans (ICLRP) and Graduate Tax.

ICLRPs allow students to pay back their loans only when they get a job and at a rate proportional to their income.

FEUQ is currently talking to students on campuses across Québec to formulate a definite stance on both solutions by April 10. FEUQ and its Cégep counterpart represent 14 Cégeps and six universities. McGill pulled out of the federation two years ago, but MacDonald College is still a member.

The biggest variable in both systems is how to deal with decreased government support. Statistics show that while tuition fees increased from $600 to $1550 from 1989 to 1992, government spending per student has decreased by 30 per cent since 1977.

"This government strategy will not generate more revenue because the government used the tuition fee raise to diminish their subsidies."

The implementation of ICLRPs, combined with dwindling government support would not solve universities' budgetary crises. "The problem with ICRLP is that government subsidies must not decrease," said Charlebois. "FEUQ agrees that ICLRP plans present a major problem for accessibility [in this scenario]. They still consider education a consumer good."

According to the report, the ICLRP still does not correct the problem which affects low-income students the most — the concept of debt.

"The societal perception of a debt burden is a subtler barrier to accessibility," said Charlebois. From a low-income standpoint, the ICLRP defers the debt burden for a longer period of time.

Looked at another way, ICLRPs simply make the poor pay for a longer time, therefore paying more. "The richer you are after you graduate, the faster you repay and the less you pay," said Charlebois.

Due to the nature of ICLRPs, the lower income you have the lower amount you have to pay, resulting in a longer pay back time and a larger amount of interest to pay.

"The ideas behind ICLRPs are good," said Charlebois, "but to implement it in this context is totally unacceptable."

The graduate tax proposal has met with more success among those who consider education to be a public good. "The graduate tax corrects the regressivity of the current system," said Charlebois. According to the report the graduate tax "eliminates the problem of barriers of accessibility imposed by direct costs."

Under this system a progressive tax is imposed on those who attend university, eliminating direct costs or debt burdens. It also provides a clearly identifiable pool of resources for university financing.

The only problem is that government financing is guaranteed only by the tax pool, a potential problem for cash-strapped universities. Tuition fees would also be eliminated by the graduate tax.

"To be coherent with the system, tuition fees would have to be abolished," said Charlebois. "But loans and grants would have to be maintained to equalize other factors."

With both proposals on the table, FEUQ is hoping to somehow come up with a combined proposal that satisfies the need for increased university funding and the need for increased accessibility to post-secondary students.

But Charlebois maintains that whatever the hearings determine, students must pressure governments not to decrease subsidies while simultaneously increasing revenues from students.

PGSS elections

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However he says that he will only push for more say in university affairs should "the issue come up" during his time in office.

His stand on tuition fees is that "ideally" they should be zero, however he does not believe that it will ever happen. He is against the incidental fees charged to all graduate students and believes they should "just be added to the main fee".

Vp internal

The only PGSS executive position being contested is perhaps the least political in nature. The vp internal's functions consist of organizing social and cultural activities for McGill grad students. Candidate Charles Hooge is running against incumbent Jeanne Schoenwandt.

Hooge is dissatisfied with the current level of activities organized by Schoenwandt.

"She's had a year or two and there haven't been any major changes. The turnouts for a typical day have dropped. I've got new ideas and I will aggressively push them through with the support of the executive," says Hooge.

Hooge is a former PGSS Representative for Physics and Co-founder of the Graduate Association of Physics Students. If elected, he promises to organize more parties, extend happy hours and increase the number of sporting events — without increasing the financial burden on the PGSS.

"If we bring in more people, any additional money will be used [to fund] new activities," claims Hooge. A financial conservative, Hooge has nevertheless come out strongly against tuition fee hikes.

Hooge's opponent, incumbent Jeanne Schoenwandt, emphasizes the cooperative and managerial skills required by the position.

"You can have loads of ideas, but things take time to manage," she says. "It's a cooperative venture between [the vp internal], the administration and the executuive." Schoenwandt lists her participation on the Organizing Committee of AGSEM and her two years on the Internal Affairs Committee of PGSS as relevant areas of experience.

Schoenwandt considers that fiscal responsibility is essential in the organization of events at Thomson House. Accordingly, if elected she plans to organize new no-cost events such as Friday-night jam sessions or Music Faculty concerts at Thomson House. Schoenwandt points to the Winter Blues Party and the International Womens' Film Festival as new events organized during her term in office.

As an international student, Schoenwandt would like to see more student aid funds be made available and she declares herself against income contingent schemes for tuition payment. "I would like to finish up the projects which I started and see my work passed on," she said.

Vp finance

Bob Collins is once again running for vp finance, a position he has held for the past three years. Since June he has also the president of the Rassemblement des associations du cycle superieur du Québec (RACSQ), the provincial graduate student society association.

He plans to maintain his main goal to "save graduate students' money within the university as a whole and within Thompson House." He also plans to keep his promise to "not increase fees for members" which has up until now been kept.

In the past three years, Collins has reorganized and accounted for all financial transactions taking place within PGSS, for the purpose of bringing "everything out in the open".

In his time as vp finance, he has increased the budget from 250 thousand dollars to 1 million dollars by finding extra sources of revenue through accepting members from law and medicine, through capitilizing on already existing revenue and through expanding services within Thompson House.

Vp university affairs

Running for the first time for vp university affairs this year is Gilbert Cabana. One of his major goals for the upcoming year is to work towards a "garanteed salary for graduate students."

In general that means that he is working for a general policy in which more McGill students are given grants from the University to pursue their graduate studies instead of looking to find grants from sources outside McGill. This would mean that graduate students would be able to complete their studies in less time because they would be able to dedicate more time to school and less time to funding their graduate studies.

One of his less "grandiose" plans is to provide more user-friendly access to codes and e-mail for graduate students. He also wants to talk to his fellow graduate students to get an idea of what they want. He doesn't consider that he is the guy "to have all the ideas", he wants to get input from the students he is representing.

Senate rep

Paul White is uncontested in his bid for graduate academic representative to Senate. His main interest is to make the multi-disciplinary programs, such as environmental studies, "more effective".

Vp administration

Corinne Santa, whose experience goes back to her days as a student representative at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, is running uncontested for the position of vp administration with the intent of improving communication within the PGSS and working as a resource person. The vp administration's functions include the upkeep of the minutes and the constitution as well as the nomination of candidates for vacant committee positions.

Santa considers that a slight tuition fee increase in accordance with the rate of inflation is acceptable. Asked whether the PGSS should take positions on matters pertaining to the wider sphere of politics, Santa says that the student body should remain neutral in order to effectively represent all graduate students.

The Daily was unable to contact vp xternal candidate Marie-Claude Poliquin.

The Post-Graduate Students' Society

announces its

Annual General Meeting

on Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 pm

Thomson House
(3650 McTavish)

All graduate students at McGill are welcome to attend, and are entitled to a vote. The agenda will include selecting a logo, hearing candidates for Executive elections and receiving Executive reports. For more information, call 398-3756.